

VZCZCXYZ0340
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHBY #0225 0650346
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 050346Z MAR 08
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9144

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 000225

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

AF/E, AF/RSA, IO/UNP, USUN, EEB/TRA/OTP, OES/OA AND L

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/04/2018

TAGS: PBTS FREL KCRM AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN RESPONSE ON ASSISTANCE FOR UN ACTION ON SOMALIAN PIRACY

REF: 2008 STATE 18101

(C) After last week's initial contact, Embassy followed up with Rowena Thompson, Director of the Africa Branch at DFAT on March 5 regarding assistance to Somalia on piracy issues. Thompson said that she could not give a formal response before conducting additional consultations within DFAT later in the week. Thompson noted, however, that it is unlikely that the GOA will have anything to offer and if they do, it will likely be small. She indicated that with the current constraints on resources, it will be very difficult for Australia to do anything on the ground. Thompson hopes to have a more formal response early next week.

MCCALLUM